

Pensby Primary School



Homework policy

Mrs K Brown – September 2008

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What are the aims of this policy?

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.

What is the purpose of homework?

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding particularly in Literacy and maths.
- To provide opportunities for parents and children to work together.
- To allow parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
- To allow children to progress towards becoming more independent learners.

What is the role of the school?

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.
- To provide support for children with the running of a homework club.

What is the role of the teacher?

- To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
- To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.
- To mark and give feedback about homework.
- To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.
- To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.

What is the role of the parent?

- To support the child in completing homework.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.
- To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework.

What is the role of the child?

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

Homework in Reception class and Key stage 1

Learning together is the emphasis for children in Reception and Key stage 1. The activities are Literacy based with a strong emphasis on reading together. It is an ideal time to lay the foundations for continuing work at home.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Parents are asked to hear their child read at home at least 3 times a week and to make a note of this in the child's reading record book. Reading on a regular basis is vital when children are in reception, year one and two. Children will bring their reading books home every evening and the role of the adult is to listen and support them. It is important to remind them to use different strategies to read new words, sounding out the word, looking at the pictures and looking for words within words are ways in which the child can read an unknown word. Just as important is discussing the book, the characters and asking questions about what has happened in the story. Children can also predict what will happen next in the story.

When your child is ready, they will bring home high frequency words to learn as part of our spelling homework. We ask parents to practice these words with their child by:

- Reading the word
- Writing the word
- Drawing pictures and symbols to represent the word
- Creating games around the word

Other tasks

Each child has a homework book that contains their main homework task. This book includes instructions for the task. We ask parents to support their child with this homework task. Children may be given a maths game as homework. Instructions are in this game. Staff should check the family have completed the game by viewing the homework log book. The homework task given to the children will be suitable to their age and should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete. From Reception to year 2, pupils will be given weekly spelling patterns and words to learn at home.

All reception and key stage 1 homework tasks are sent home on a Thursday. We ask for homework to be returned by the following Tuesday.

Homework in Key Stage 2.

As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that parents support their children but good habits of independent study should be encouraged. The main focus for homework in Key Stage 2 continues to be Literacy and maths, however children will be given more varied tasks in other areas of the curriculum.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading.

The children may read to an adult, with an adult or read to themselves in the presence of an adult. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. Older children need a clear understanding of the story that sometimes will go beyond the literal meaning of the text. These texts may be more detailed and will take longer to read. They should be encouraged to read all types of texts including non-fiction. Whenever your child reads, either an adult or they, should make a note of it in their reading record book. Reading at home at least three times a week is strongly recommended.

Spelling homework is also given to the children regularly.

Other tasks.

Each child has a homework book that contains their main homework task. This book includes instructions for the task. We ask parents to support their child with this homework task. It should be completed in pencil or black ink and to a high standard.

Work could be linked to any other curriculum area, Science, Geography, History and so on although it is usually maths or literacy based. It could take many forms, preparing a talk, completing a piece of research or conducting an interview. The nature of this work may be more open ended than in other areas. Children may be given a maths game as homework. Instructions are in this game. Staff should check the family have completed the game by viewing the homework log book.

Spellings

The children in years 3,4,5 and 6 follow the Read Write, Inc spelling programme within the curriculum. As part of this they select words to learn at home. These are then 'tested' through the application of the words within writing tasks.

All key stage 2 homework tasks are sent home on a Thursday. We ask for homework to be returned by the following Tuesday. In years 5 and 6, homework may be given more than once a week

Why will children sometimes be given extra homework?

Children who take part in specialised lessons and Booster classes may sometimes be set extra homework to reinforce the work being done. Additionally children who work in a one to one situation with teaching assistants will sometimes be given extra homework. In both cases, children should complete this work alongside their normal homework unless the child or the parents have been told otherwise. If the child is finding they have too much work then parents should speak to the child's teacher.

What about children who don't complete homework?

The expectation is that children will complete homework. Teachers will keep records of children completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. If there are any problems with children not completing homework on a regular basis then parents will be contacted to discuss this. The school encourages parents to talk to class teachers if they have any difficulties supporting their child with homework or completing homework, so that an alternative arrangement can be made. There will be occasions when a child will miss playtime/other activities if they have not completed homework. If this does occur it is handled sensitively by the teacher and the child is afforded all the usual playtime comforts of eating their snack, using the toilet etc.

How will the homework be marked?

Teachers will mark children's homework in a variety of ways but always according to the schools marking policy. Generally the work will be marked by the teacher with a short encouraging comment, or a sticker or other positive mark. . Sometimes the work will be 'quality marked'. This is when a piece of work is marked in detail and comments about future progress are added to the work. On other occasions the work may be marked orally with the child or the class and there will not be evidence from the teacher in the child's book. Teachers generally will not mark homework that is handed in late.

Homework standards

The children are often reminded that homework should be completed to a high standard. As in school, children should use pencil or blue ink/gel pens to complete homework. Children like to colour

in homework pictures and illustrations and we ask that only coloured pencils be used to do this. Homework should always be completed in the homework book wherever possible.